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albumreview

No No Zero
Rough Stuff
Signed by Force

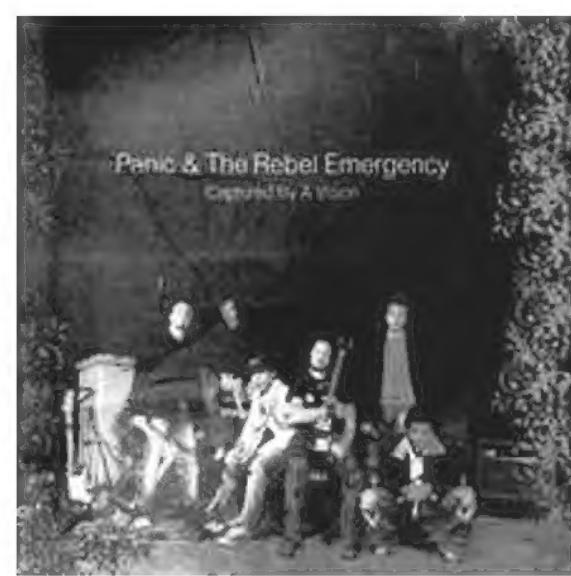
SARAH STEAD
Arts & Entertainment Writer

No No Zero wants fornication, penetration, stimulation, and masturbation, and they're not offering any explanation. Using members from Toronto-based punk act The Exploders, No No Zero is a hybrid of garage-rock and punk, and their album, *Rough Stuff*, is unapologetically crass. At its core, the album is unambiguously about all things raunchy, sexual, and taboo.

Singer Pius Priapus sounds like a sinister vocal incarnation of the B-52s' Fred Schneider—but Priapus' love shack has no doors. True to punk tradition, most songs are under two minutes long, and several don't even crack the one-minute mark. The opening track, "Beat the Shit Out of Me," is a plea for domination and pain, while "Screw" is a lament about how masturbation keeps men

and women from having enough sex. "Uschi" is a song musing about Uschi Digard, a Swedish former soft-core porn star, model, and actress, and "Brown Shower" is about, well, it need not be said.

The album is pure id—not one desire is left unexplored or unexploited. Though many of the tracks are quite funny and the lyrics are dangerously catchy, the graphic subject matter is the ultimate example of too much information—but that said, there's a strangely enjoyable quality in the subversiveness. No No Zero hold nothing back, and half of the fun is delighting in the fact that you know you shouldn't be listening to this album. *Rough Stuff* should be approached with caution, a wide open mind, and probably a pair of rubber gloves.



albumreview

Rebel Emergency
Rebel Emergency
Independent

KRISTINA DE GUZMAN
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"There's no boundaries for your thoughts / Let your mind wander far away / You can be in New York or LA / Let your mind wander far away"

The feelings obtained when you listen to Rebel Emergency's inappropriately self-titled EP can be summed up by the opening track's ("Wander Far Away") lyrics. There's no sense of panic or urgency here, but rather relaxation and liberation.

In 2005, Toronto rock band Rebel Emergency teamed up with New York

producer/engineer Panic. Together, they formed Panic & the Rebel Emergency and released *Captured by a Vision*, an album that mixed rock, reggae, and ska so well that someone from the Jamaican Star took notice. Panic eventually left the band, but you wouldn't know while listening to this record: half of the tracks on the EP, including "Wander Far Away," "Here I Am," and "Walk On By," were taken from *Captured by a Vision*.

With the majority of tracks being on the reggae and ska side of things,

a song like "Ghost & Angels" would normally stick out like a sore thumb, given its leanings towards soft rock. However, Roddy Soul's smooth vocals, along with the sprinkling of reggae and neat guitar work by Geoff Star, who turns jazz seamlessly into classic rock, provide enough originality to prevent it from seeming out of place—though it is a little slow. Things are back on the upbeat with "Honest," in which the drums are the main appeal. Meanwhile, "Juvenile" faces the same problem as "Ghost & Angels" by being too mellow for an otherwise lively album. Aside from the reggae choruses, nothing much helps to make this song any more excitable. Going from "Honest" to "Juvenile" is like becoming alert after taking a high dose of caffeine, only to be sluggish again after an hour or so. Make "Honest" the last track, and *Rebel Emergency* would melt all your troubles away.



albumreview

Johnny Hollow
Dirty Hands
The Orange Record Label

KELSEY TANASIUK
Arts & Entertainment Staff

One might not expect great things when they first pick up from *Dirty Hands* by the Canadian band Johnny Hollow. With a goth-pretentious (though still really pretty) cover and a unfamiliar band name, the common prediction would likely be overly angsty Evanesence rip-offs. However, you'd be surprised by the quality of the album that these Ontario rockers deliver.

The first track, "Alchemy," immediately transports you to the strange world depicted on the CD's front cover; it's Tim

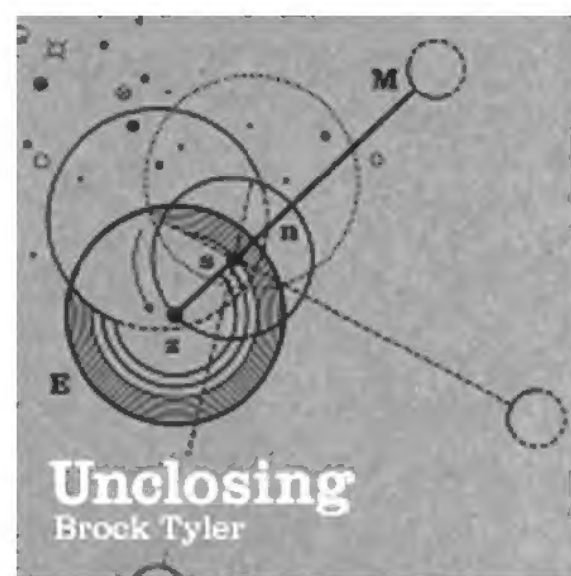
Burton-esque in all the best ways: mysterious, dark, and ever-so-charming.

As the tracks fly by, the vocals alternate between male and female voices, both equally hypnotizing. Rich and decadent cello and piano flow through the album, giving it that extra air of mystery and intrigue, like a gothier version of Goldfrapp—or a mellower version of Shiny Toy Guns, only with an accompanying orchestra. In addition to all this, the storytelling element in songs like "Worse Things"

means that Johnny Hollow show that not only do they have the instrumental and vocal aspects of their craft mastered, but the lyrical aspect to soon to be completely conquered as well.

Also, should that band leave you wanting more in this imaginative dark fantasy world they create, their websites deliver an extra treat. Designed by the band's own Vincent Marcone, their vivid home on the web will delight fans of fantasy films like *Pan's Labyrinth*. With a separate site for each album, Johnny Hollow's online designs are both beautiful and curious, with a steampunk lean, demanding the visitor answer riddles to progress further through the website.

With all this to offer, it's obvious the boy and girls who make up Johnny Hollow don't have imagination in short supply. Full of talent and promise, we can expect big, exciting things from this Canadian trio.



albumreview

Brock Tyler
Unclosing
Hopeful Heartful Music

DAVID JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

On his website, Brock Tyler notes without a hint of irony that his favourite listener comment about his debut album, *Unclosing*, is that it "works wonders for putting children to sleep." I can't elaborate on that. That sentence tells you everything you'll need to know about *Unclosing*.

Tyler is a local artist who writes his own songs, thanks his grandmother in his album lining, and has perhaps the most creative disc packaging I've unwrapped this year, all of which

earn him huge props. The record has a definite and intentional soft acoustic feel to it. So I've got no problems with Brock Tyler (producer) and Brock Tyler (lyricist). But I find myself at odds with Brock Tyler (singer), sadly, who performs the entire album in a soft, languid monotone that half the time gets drowned out by the orchestrals.

Not that increased tempo or crazy riffs are necessary to make a successful song. But a hint of emotion

would be nice once in a while. All too often, Tyler seems to be content with simply hitting the notes and letting them sit there, rather than using them to express any feelings or pathos.

Even in the best-written song on the album, the bittersweet "Hangman," the emotion of the vocals never quite matches the feeling of the lyrics. *Unclosing* thus comes off as amiable background scoring that's instantly forgettable, which sucks because it's so obvious that, given his lyrical prowess, Tyler is capable of much more.

I hate to leave him with a handful of clichés, but the best thing Tyler can do is find his true voice and focus a little less on the packaging and a little more on what goes inside it. Otherwise, it's not just children who will be struggling to keep their eyes open when listening to an album like *Unclosing*.

Underdog Badgers crowned new CIS kings

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

OTTAWA—In a tournament full of upsets, the seventh seeded Brock Badgers walked away with the CIS men's basketball championship.

With three of the top four seeded teams losing in the first round and the fourth falling in a semi-final, the Badgers downed the fifth seeded Acadia Axemen 64–61 to win the WP McGee Trophy and end the Carleton Ravens' five-year reign as CIS champions.

The game was close all the way through, with three lead changes and five ties at various points in the play, including one with barely more than two minutes left. Brock came out stronger in the first quarter, leading 14–7, but the second quarter saw a complete reversal of their fortunes. Acadia outscored Brock 24–7, and went into halftime up ten.

"It was nervousness. You're playing on a national stage, you're playing to be the best team in Canada, so it's natural to be a little uptight," Brock head coach Ken Murray explained. "Acadia, on the other hand, wasn't initially. Then, in the second quarter particularly, it was like they just woke up and 'Bingo,' and we fell asleep."

The Badgers surged back after the break, and they finished the third quarter with the score tied 50–50.

"The third quarter, which has been our nemesis all year, was our turnaround point today, which was nice," Murray said. "We were down ten points at halftime, and most teams would say, 'We're struggling,' but we knew that we were going to come out in the third quarter."

Momentum swung back and forth between the two teams in the fourth, with neither squad able to pull ahead. Acadia took the lead to start the quarter, but Brock, little by little, claimed it back, taking a 62–60 lead with under a minute to



CHRIS ROUSSAKAS / THE CHARLATAN

A NEW NUMBER ONE Carleton's title streak ended at five as the Brock Badgers claimed the CIS title by defeating Acadia 64–61 on Sunday in Ottawa.

play thanks to a shot from fourth-year forward Dusty Bianchin. Bianchin then secured the victory for Brock with a long jumper with 11.4 seconds on the clock.

Badger Michael Kemp, who led the game with 23 points, scored 15 of them in the second half.

"We thought initially that if it was close going into the fourth quarter, that we were going to win it because they might be a little tighter from last night," Murray said. "And sure enough, they made a couple mistakes; we took advantage; we

starting hitting a couple shots—we didn't shoot the ball well today, but we hit a couple shots, and Dusty had a couple real big shots today. Michael kept us in the game, and Dusty finished it off.

Brock had been considered underdogs going into the game against not only a higher seed, but a team that had bumped off the defending champions, as Acadia did beating Carleton in double overtime on Saturday—but Murray said that he knew his team was capable of surprising people.

"We may be the best seventh seed ever at CIS

nationals," he said. "I thought when we started on our run in February that we had a pretty good chance of being here at the national championship, but I didn't realize until we actually got here that our chances were really good."

The Laval Rouge et Or defeated the UBC Thunderbirds 86–84 in other action on Sunday, winning the consolation final and securing fifth place. Carleton and the Western Mustangs tied for third, while Alberta and the St Mary's Huskies tied for seventh.

Bears downed in first round

Carleton defence, rebounding stifles Alberta in quarter-finals

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

OTTAWA—The Bears basketball team defied expectations this season to make it to the national championships, but once they there, they were unable to continue their success.

Alberta's first game was a punishing 66–57 loss against the host and top-seeded Carleton Ravens on Friday night, while Saturday afternoon's consolation final against Laval saw a lacklustre effort from the clearly dispirited Bears result in an 87–79 win for the Rouge et Or.

"They're not really a great offensive team, I don't think, but obviously their forte is defence, and we got a good taste of that tonight"

ALEX STEELE
GOLDEN BEARS GUARD

Alberta entered nationals as the eighth seed after coming in second at the Canada West finals, drawing Carleton—undefeated in the regular season and playoffs—as their first round match-up. It was an unenviable draw, but the Bears were confident that they could hold their own against the Ravens, the five-time defending champions.

The Bears played some of their most dogged basketball of the season: outscored in the first two quarters, Alberta went into the half down 35–23, but hung tight throughout the second half—outscored the Ravens in the frame and cutting the lead to four in the last five minutes. Ultimately, however, the Bears were undone by

the Ravens' nearly impregnable defence.

"They're defending national champions for a reason," Alberta head coach Don Horwood said after the loss. "There's none of my guys that I think I can fault. I thought we battled as hard as we could, but Carleton is just a tough team."

"This team is very good; it's not luck that they won five years in a row, and you can see today that, offensively, we just couldn't do anything against them," Bears guard Neb Aleksic echoed. "They stopped everything we could do, and it just showed that they're a great defensive team."

The Ravens did a great job of shutting down the Bears' scoring, holding them to 41.7 per cent shooting and only 48 shots, and outrebounded them as well, limiting Alberta to only 4 offensive rebounds while grabbing 18 of their own.

"They're not really a great offensive team, I don't think, but obviously their forte is defence, and we got a good taste of that tonight," fifth-year Alberta guard Alex Steele said.

"They scrap," Horwood agreed. "They scrapped after the loose balls, and how many times did they miss layups or shots and still get the rebound? It's pretty tough to beat a team when that's happening."

Alberta also struggled with serious foul trouble on Friday night. While the Ravens weren't ignored by the refs—they were called for 20 fouls—the Bears had 32 called against them, sending the Ravens to the line 32 times. Five Bears, four of them starters, fouled out during the course of the game: Steele, Harvey Bradford, Justin VanLoo, Andrew Parker, and Braydon Janzen. The Bears also had to play the fourth quarter without Aleksic, their leading scorer of the day. He rolled his ankle on a rough foul with two minutes to go in the third.

PLEASE SEE **OUSTED** ♦ PAGE 12

Flamboyant seniors bid farewell

Known for their style on and off the court, Bates, Parker, and Steele formed the backbone for the Bears this year

ROBIN COLLUM
Sports Editor

OTTAWA—For Andrew Parker, Alex Steele, and Richard Bates, the buzzer at the end of Saturday's consolation semifinal against Laval also signalled the end of their careers as Golden Bears. The three each played their final year of eligibility this season, and to end with a loss was even tougher for them.

"Richard is an excellent post presence. He shows how a big man should play."

ANDREW PARKER
ON TEAMMATE RICHARD BATES

But in spite of a disappointing finish, the three Bears are happy with the way their season—and their careers—have gone with Alberta.

"It's hard to take now, but looking back, it's been a pretty good year. We got to nationals, and that's what we wanted. It didn't go our way, but we got here, and I'm proud of the guys and the year we've had," Steele said. "It was definitely a really good season, the best season we've had in a few years and since I've been here."

Probably the three most distinctive players on—and in Parker and Bates' cases, off—the court for Alberta, the three starters have made a big difference to the Green and Gold in their years with the team.

Bates, a 6'11" centre, is the longest-serving Bear of the three, having started at the U of A

straight out of high school in Sherwood Park. He's known as much for his distinctive outfits as he is for his towering presence on the court. While some of his teammates show up before the game in warm-up suits, Bates can routinely be seen pre-game in ensembles such as a full white suit and light blue shirt.

On the court, Bates' size has also been his greatest asset, and he led the Bears in rebounds this year, averaging six per game.

"I thought Richard had a much better year than I thought he was going to have, and certainly from the middle of November to the middle of February, he was probably our best post player," Alberta head coach Don Horwood said.

"Richard is an excellent post presence," Parker agreed. "He shows how a big man should play."

At 6'4", Andrew Parker doesn't have Bates' size, but he stands out just as much, if only for his dunks. A local legend with some impressive YouTube clips to his credit, Parker almost always make a point to demonstrate his massive slams in pre-game warm-ups to intimidate the opponents and rile up the crowd. He's also put down a few in games, always to thunderous applause—his flamboyant style and obvious enthusiasm have made him a crowd favourite.

Always the loudest voice on the bench during games, Parker has also been undoubtedly the most energetic Bear.

"I thought Andrew gave everything—from the minute he came on our team, he gave everything he had. He loves the Golden Bears; he loves being part of the team," Horwood said.

PLEASE SEE **SENIORS** ♦ PAGE 13



CHRIS ROUSSAKAS / THE CHARLATAN

THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR Alberta centre Richard Bates (25) attempts to block a shot during Alberta's opening-round loss to Carleton.

Reffing an issue in loss to Ravens

OUSTED • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Though Horwood said that he didn't blame his team's loss on the officiating, he wasn't impressed with it either. In particular, he was upset at a missed call on what he thought to be a deliberate technical foul by Ravens star and CIS Player of the Year Aaron Doornekamp in the waning moments of the game.

With 1:18 left to play and the Bears down ten points, Richard Bates dunked on Raven Ryan Bell, and was fouled by Bell in the process. But Horwood claimed that Doornekamp slammed the ball into the backboard on the play—a textbook technical. Had it been called, Alberta would have been given an additional two free throws and possession. Instead, the officials called a technical on the Alberta bench.

"It's little things, and I know that when two people collide sometimes things can go either way, but the one that bothered me the most was the one that was clear, when Doornekamp punched a ball up against the backstop," he said. "That's two shots for us and the ball on the side in a close

ball game. Obviously, they chose not to call it, and that shouldn't be a choice—that's in the rulebook."

Regardless, Horwood emphasized that Carleton earned the win.

"They're deserving of the victory, so I don't want to take anything away from them," he said. "They're a tough team, they're tough defensively, and they're tough on the boards. That's the stuff that beats you: the grinding. They just grind it out and beat you to the rebounds and beat you to the loose balls."

He also gave his team credit for keeping up with the Ravens.

"I thought our guys battled; they did everything they could," he said. "I was very happy with the way they battled. I was very disappointed to lose, but by the same token, I think we did all we could."

"We definitely had our chances, even with everything that happened, with free-throws and fouls, we still were in the game until the very end," Aleksic agreed. "With two and half minutes left, we were only down by seven—you can't really ask for

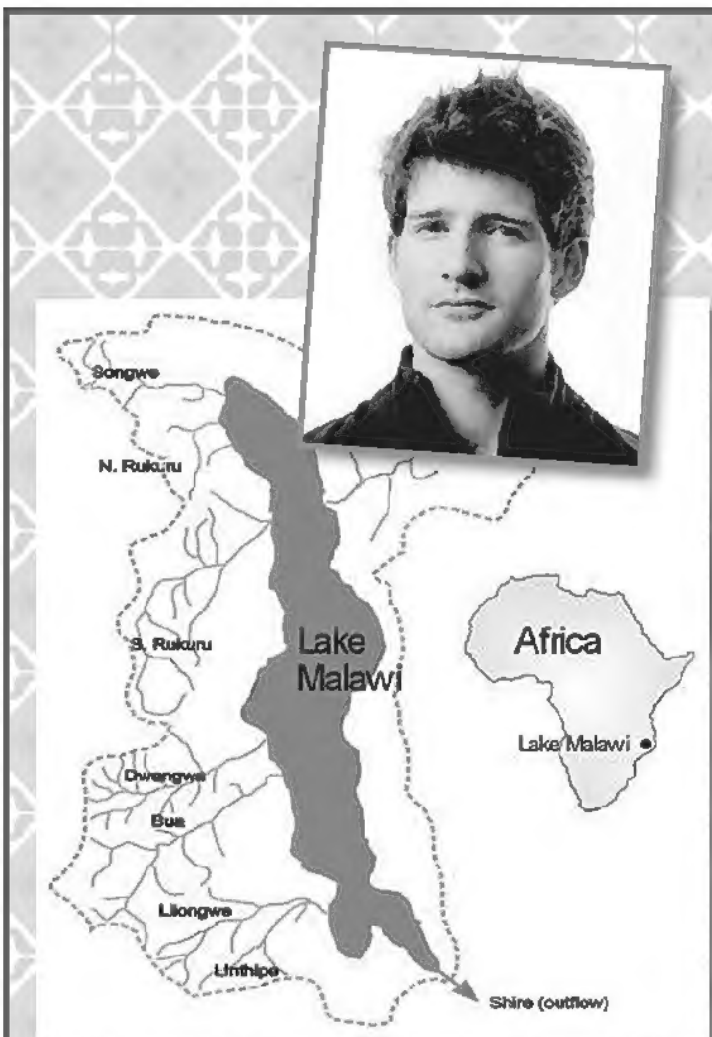
anything more, with the things that were going against us."

Though Alberta wasn't able to keep the score even on Friday night, their effort level against the Ravens was high. The same cannot be said for their Saturday game against Laval, however.

"I think basically playing in the consolation round is not a happy experience for anybody, and I thought [Laval] wanted it more, and they played harder," Horwood said. "They worked harder, and I thought there were moments in the game where some of our guys seemed a little disinterested."

That wasn't an entirely unknown experience for the Bears this season, Horwood admitted.

"To be totally, brutally honest about it, that's what we've battled all year long. I think some of our players have a habit of not working hard all the time," he said. "If they didn't think the game was all that important, or for whatever reason in their own minds it wasn't that important, then their habit is not to work hard enough. And I think there were a number of situations where that happened tonight."



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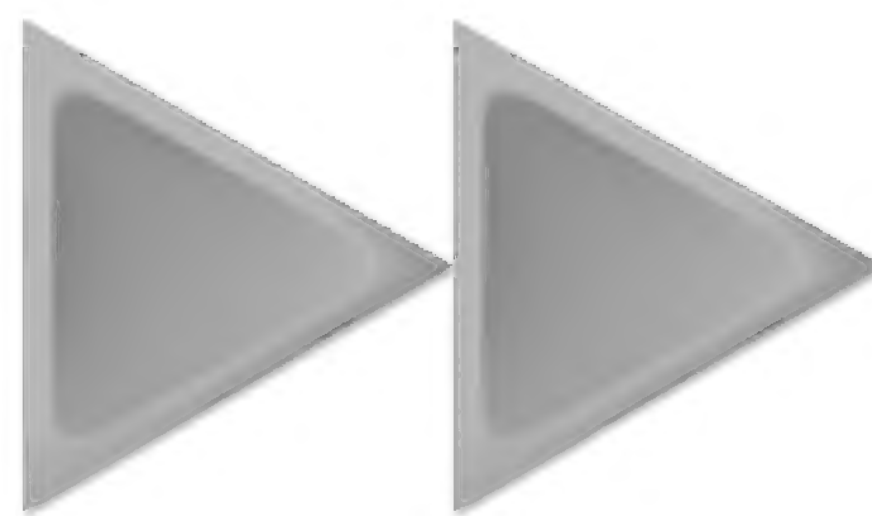
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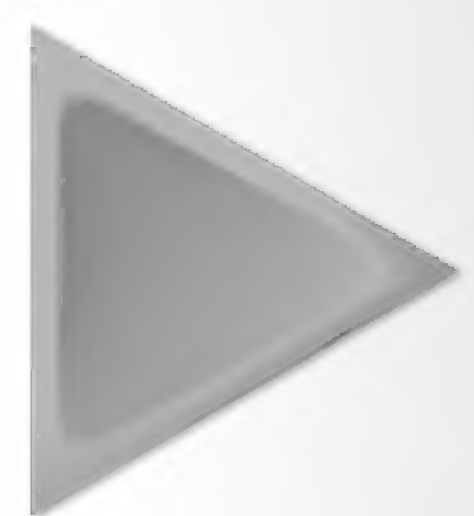
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Steele driving force for Golden Bears

Graduating guard 'basically carried us' for past two seasons—Horwood

SENIORS ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

"If not our hardest worker, then he was certainly one of our hardest workers all the time, and he cared so much. There was never any doubt in our minds about how Andrew cared about the team and how we were doing."

In fact, sometimes that enthusiasm went too far. Parker spent most of his first two years with the Bears in perpetual foul trouble, and often had trouble containing his emotions.

"There were times when his over-exuberance hurt the team, but that was a fault of trying too hard, not trying too little," Horwood said. "And of course there were times when there were breakdowns mentally on the court with Andrew because he was used to playing a different style, and his old habits went back, so there were times when I'd have to get mad at him and try to get him readjusted."

But Parker turned into an efficient scorer—averaging 10.3 points per

game this season—and tenacious defender this season, drawing praise from his coach.

"He settled down great this year, I thought he had a great year. He went to the boards much better, he did the things we needed him to do," Horwood explained. "He wasn't as consistent as I would have liked him to have been, but he was way more consistent than he'd been in his previous two years. But the one thing you can say about Andrew is that you never, ever disputed his heart and his drive and his commitment to the team."

Alex Steele, in contrast to his departing teammates, isn't particularly ostentatious or loud on or off the court—but get a ball in his hands, and more often than not he'll score. Almost since he transferred to the Bears from Grant MacEwan for the 2005/06 season, he has been one of Alberta's most important scorers.

"Alex is just a guy that every guard should model their game after. He

never stops working hard" Parker said. "And he's fearless—he's not afraid of anything. That's why I really respect him, and that's why we really got along. Because we're both kind of like the same person—different sides of the city, black guy, white guy—but we're just fearless."

Steele was just as key to Alberta this year. Named Canada West Player of the Year and a CIS first-team all-Canadian, his play—including a 40-point performance in January—was the single most important factor in getting the team to nationals this season.

"Alex carried us. He basically carried us last year, and he carried us this year," Horwood said. "We don't get here without Alex; we're not even in a position to compete at this level without Alex. Many many times throughout this year when we're struggling to get scoring from anybody, we had to get scoring from somewhere, and Alex gave it to us."



CHRIS ROUSSAKAS / THE CHARLATAN

INTERNAL DRIVE Andrew Parker's perserverance made him a key cog.

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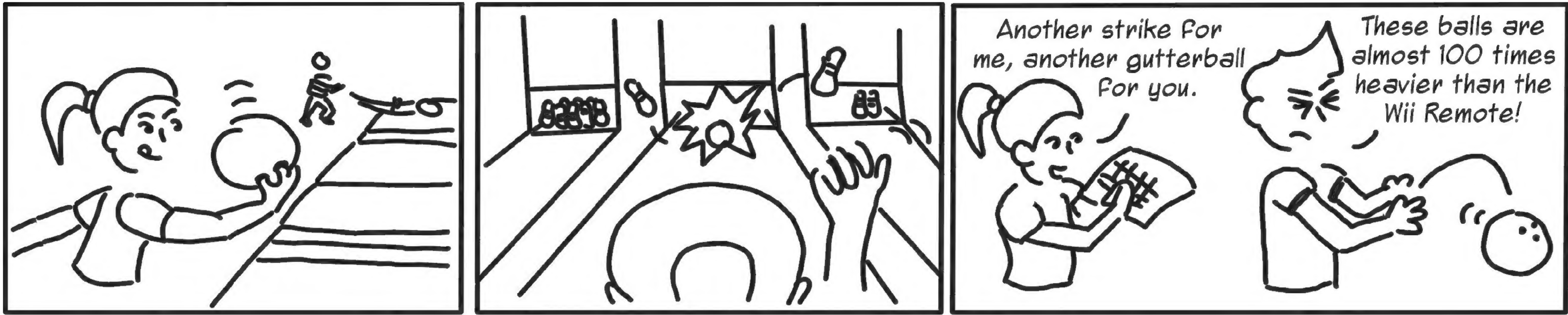
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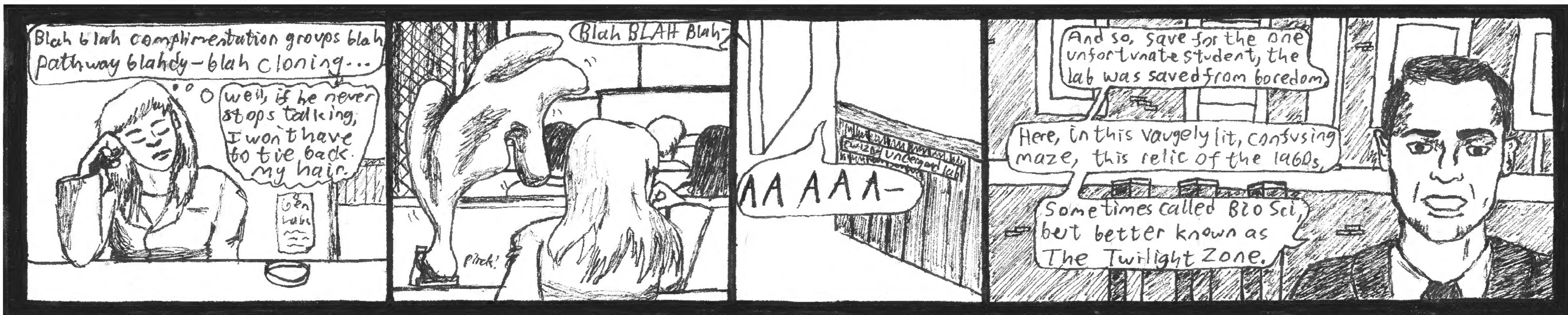
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THE GATEWAY

volume XCVIII number 41 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ tuesday, 18 march, 2008

U of A anti-idling policies not going anywhere—student

TOM WAGNER
News Staff

Vehicle idling is usually seen by environmentalists as needless CO₂ emission or, for penny-pinchers, a waste of gas. But if City Council gets its way, idling could soon be a hit on your wallet as well.

The City is currently examining whether or not to enact a bylaw against excessive idling. People shouldn't worry about Council going overboard though, said Ward 5 Councillor Don Iveson.

"We simply want people to ask themselves, 'Am I behaving reasonably or excessively?'" Iveson said. "A bylaw gives weight to that."

The bylaw couldn't come soon enough for University of Alberta student and HUB resident Kent Cameron, who recently presented his concerns about idling to City Council. He first became deeply involved in the issue when he noticed car exhaust entering his HUB apartment because of unaware drivers idling beside the air intake fans, which are supposed to supply his apartment with fresh air.

"I've actually smelled car exhaust in my apartment, which is served by those air [intake fans]," Cameron said. "I've had to block my air vent with a block of wood and get all my air from the window."



SAM BROOKS

PLEASE SEE IDLING ♦ PAGE 3

SHUT ME OFF The U of A encourages motorists to turn off their engines while waiting around campus, and a proposed city bylaw may make this mandatory.

Int'l rankings place Alberta post-doc programs in top ten

YAW AMOAKO-TUFFOUR
News Writer

According to a recent survey by *The Scientist* magazine, the University of Alberta is among the top ten international institutions to work as a post-doctorate in the health sciences.

The selection was based on the U of A's network infrastructure and the opportunities available for their post-docs in the health sciences. The magazine discovered a consistent trend in these top-ten institutions to listen to the concerns of post-docs regarding career opportunities and in striking a work-life balance.

The U of A ranked seventh in the magazine's sixth annual Best Places to Work for Post-doc survey. Other Canadian institutions included in the top ten were the University of Toronto in tenth place, UBC in eighth, and Dalhousie in fifth.

Dr Marek Michalak, Chair of the Biochemistry Department, explained that traditionally, post-doctorates were a misunderstood and virtually unrepresented group on campus.

"Compared to graduate students, post-docs had almost no representation or organized structure," he said, describing the historical vulnerability of the post-doctorate community.

"During my studies, a post-doc could be terminated within two weeks of the program

with no explanation. When post-doctorate fellows came from overseas to attend North American universities, there was no security for them in the case that their placement did not work out."

Michalak believes the U of A was named one of the best international institutions for post-docs due to a combination of two factors: the University's establishment of a Post-Doctoral Fellows' Office, which in turn introduced a high level of organization and provided the post-doctorates with more leverage and equity within their departments.

"It was the Post Doctoral Fellows' Office that established standards for the post-doctoral program such as the lengths and methods of training. [The Office] was also the cause for contracts being introduced to provide some level of protection to new post-docs," he said.

Michalak also stated that the influence of the Post-Doctoral Office outside of academics enhances the post-doctoral experience, as it is able to assist with housing, funding, and health coverage.

In addition to the vital role of the Post-Doctoral Fellows Office, Michalak stressed the primacy of a high-quality faculty to the U of A's success. Describing the university system as a very competitive venture, he stressed the need to remain competitive in recruiting the top pro-



CYRIL BALITBIT

POST-DOCS TOPS Dr Marek Michalak discusses the prosperity of the U of A's post-doctorates.

fessors, allowing them to grow and to have the ability to retain them when they become the best.

"If other universities don't want to steal my professors, then there is something wrong with my professors," he said.

Michalak said his is a high-calibre faculty with many networks throughout the country and

internationally. These networks, he continued, provide both research and employment opportunities to post-docs that they may not receive elsewhere.

"Quality professors attract the top talent to complete post-doctoral studies at the U of A, and then these top post-doctorates in turn assist the professors to excel in their duties."

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Cirquetastic workshop

The wizards behind Cirque du Soleil stopped by campus to pass their dark secrets on to the technical students

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Badgeriffic finish

There's a new CIS basketball champion, while the Golden Bears bow out early to Carleton in Ottawa

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colophon

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U of A lecturer honoured for promotion of science

From hosting a TV show to engaging students about nature, John Acorn shares his love of the outdoors

JONATHAN TAVES
News StaffCombining folk songs with an enthusiastic love of wildlife, John Acorn brought the wonders of the outdoors up close and personal for children in the mid '90s with his television program *Acorn the Nature Nut*.

But the show is just one of the many ways the University of Alberta renewable resources lecturer has promoted an understanding of the natural sciences. He has also published countless books about the birds and insects of the province.

Now being added to Acorn's long list of decorations, which includes two Gemini nominations, is the Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion, which is awarded annually by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada to an individual for publicizing science.

"The most valuable aspect of [science promotion] is reminding non-scientists of how scientists think," Acorn says.

"They are honestly trying their very hardest to figure out how the world works.

"I just think science is so much fun. It's not easy at all. It's really hard, but it's also really wonderful to talk about," he adds.

Acorn recalls his fervour for local wildlife at a very young age.

"I got interested in insects when I was five years old," he says. "I went down to the Edmonton Public Library,

and one of the books my parents got me was about bugs. That just got me cranked.

"The next year, my dad brought me here to campus to the entomology department. They showed me some bugs, and I've been hanging out here ever since."

With that dedication, Acorn eventually earned his undergraduate degree in zoology before gaining his graduate degree in entomology, both from the U of A.

He credits his parents for supporting his passion, an approach he has adopted for his own young sons.

"I was able to develop my own interests, my parents saying, 'Whatever it is you want to do, we'll support you and help you out with it,'" he explains. "That's how I feel about my kids. Whatever they want to do, I'll help them."

Acorn began his TV career working on a documentary for the Canadian-Chinese Dinosaur Project as their science advisor. The local producers he met gave him the opportunity to make a pilot of his own show.

"It took two and a half years to sell the idea to a broadcaster after we got the pilot together," he explains.

"My idea was, 'Let's look at the kind of nature that anyone can go out and see.' We don't have to go way out in the exotic *Natural Geographic* locations."

Between 1994 and 2001, 88 episodes were produced.

At the moment, Acorn teaches three classes, including one on



MIKE OTTO

NATURE NUT John Acorn was recognized for his work in publicizing science.

environmental interpretation, where students learn to lead nature walks and design exhibits.

"It's so different doing television or writing books or giving public lectures than it is lecturing at the University," he explains. "We are really quite constrained here because of our need to grade students. You have to slow down. It can be a drag."

Acorn says teaching at a university

is great, but believes personal links are what truly make it effective.

"Every instructor should take some of their lecture time to just speak freely and try to be inspiring if they can, or to share some of their personal thoughts and feelings about the subject," Acorn says. "Because it's that human connection that really makes it work, even if you don't put it on the exam."

STREETERS

Compiled and photographed by
Steve Smith and Sam Brooks

As you may be aware, the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches have rescheduled this year's St Patrick's Day to 15 March in order to comply with the prohibition on Saints' Days.

If you could reschedule any holiday, which one would you reschedule and why?

**Bobby Buchkowsky**
Arts III**Aksana Vukolava**
Nursing I**Adam Rosenke**
Education IV**Courney Smith**
Arts I

"Saturday's my birthday, so I'd move Easter to the next weekend because Saints' Days can't [take place during Holy Week]." [So you're a saint?] "Yeah." [What are you the patron saint of?] "Cute blonds ... cute blond boys." [I don't think the Roman Catholics like that sort of thing] "I think some of the priests do."

"I would put New Year's in summer just because it's so cold outside. Everybody's getting drunk, and you don't want to be outside. And there's fireworks, and it's cold outside; you want to do that when it's warm. I think you should do it right in the middle of summer. July 19th."

"I don't think I'd reschedule any holiday. Maybe I'd put Christmas in the summer when it's hot out so everyone could have a better time. But there's something about Christmas and snow. And then there's Christmas break ... yeah, I'm going to have to stick with my original answer."

"I'd probably change New Year's. I'd put it in the summer, so there could be more parties when it's nice out."

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Website for foreign brides aims to educate newcomers on legal rights

EDMON ROTEA
News Staff

A joint effort between the University of Alberta's Faculty of Extension, the Legal Resource Centre, the Alberta Law Foundation, and the Changing Together organization launched a website last month to help educate foreign brides and immigrant women about marital relationships and the law in Canada.

The website, www.lawforforeignbrides.ca, covers a gamut of topics, from issues to consider before marriage, the immigration process, living in Canada, child issues, Canadian law, and topics concerning marital breakdown—and all in easy-to-understand English.

The initial idea for the website was conceived and developed by Changing Together, a non-profit agency that helps immigrant women.

"We saw the need for legal information based on our experiences in helping the foreign brides in the past few years," said San San Sy, who served previously as chair for Changing Together during the website's initial development. "Three years ago, we experienced an increase in foreign brides coming to Changing Together for assistance."

Besides overseas relationships and traditional arranged-marriage practices, Sy commented that many foreign brides coming to Canada also meet their future spouses online via chat rooms and Internet match-making agencies. The website can be accessed from anywhere, and it

doesn't require its users to register to view the site's contents, allowing individuals to access the information anonymously.

"We came up with the idea of using the Web as the venue to develop and present legal information from the perspective of the foreign brides, as there are brides who met their spouses [online]," Sy said. Changing Together also conducted focus groups and interviews with foreign brides and other agencies in determining the site's content—especially from the context and perspective of a foreign bride herself.

"We came up with the idea of using the Web as the venue to develop and present legal information from the perspective of the foreign brides, as there are brides who met their spouses [online]."

SAN SAN SY
FORMER CHAIR OF CHANGING TOGETHER

Such an effort required monetary sponsorship from the Alberta Law Foundation, which provided a grant for website development. The website's content was then developed by the Legal Resource Centre, a public legal education program that's

supported by the U of A's Faculty of Extension.

"One of the goals of the legal studies unit in the Faculty of Extension is to give people in the community access to legal information, including immigrants and marginalized groups," said Dr Katy Campbell, the interim dean of the Faculty of Extension. Campbell explained that the website is also a means for the faculty, in association with the Legal Resource Centre, to engage in community partnerships in the areas of research and social action.

"The programs and projects of the Legal Resource Centre focus on creating accessible, plain-language information about the law for the public. Our role was to design and create the website and check the content for legal accuracy," said Diane Rhyason, the Legal Resource Centre's executive director.

For now, the goal of the website is to provide legal information in plain English. It's yet to be determined whether the website's content will be translated to other languages due to the nature of translating law and the costs associated with such a task.

"We know that to have Canadian law written in different languages is more than just translation. Translation without context is very misleading," Sy said, citing recent statistics that 80 per cent of immigrants have some form of English language capabilities. "Our experience also indicates that many women tend to turn to other women for help in solving problems and [other] issues."



MIKE OTTO

IDLE WISHES HUB Mall resident Kurt Cameron wants the U of A to start being stricter about its anti-idling regulations.

Idling on campus sparks debate

IDLING ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Despite signs warning drivers of fines for idling that surround the air intake vents that service HUB and the Business building, Cameron noted that he's never seen anyone ticketed. Even in extreme cases where he witnessed people idling there for hours at a time, he said no fines have been handed down.

As a result, he said he's taken it upon himself to go talk to idling drivers and the University administration to try and remedy the situation. But despite his efforts, he said both parties have just asked him to stop bothering them.

"I guess I can say that the issue itself has been a concern, but also the way the University has dealt with it has been a concern," Cameron said. "You know, we've been taught about critical thinking and 'whatsoever things are true,' and yet when that's applied to the University, they're not so keen on it."

However, Don Hickey, University Vice-President (Facilities & Operations), rejects the notion that the University is doing nothing to deal with the issue.

"We've done the [air quality] testing and tested both on the exterior and also within the residence units and found everything well within limits."

DON HICKEY
U OF A VP (FACILITIES & OPERATIONS)

Apart from signs around the air intake vents, he points to progress in building awareness among

University staff about idling, as well as putting reminder stickers in University vehicles, among other things.

"We've done the [air quality] testing and tested both on the exterior and also within the residence units and found everything well within limits," Hickey explained.

Despite these measures, Cameron claims he's still smelling car exhaust in his apartment and seeing cars sit and idle right beside air intake fans. As a result, he's pushing for a bylaw with some teeth so that people with complaints like his can call bylaw officers with their concerns.

"Simply telling people it would be nice to turn off your car and do something positive for the environment just isn't having a big enough effect," Cameron explained. "There needs to be some sort of follow-up consequence, otherwise people just say 'I'm not doing this.'"



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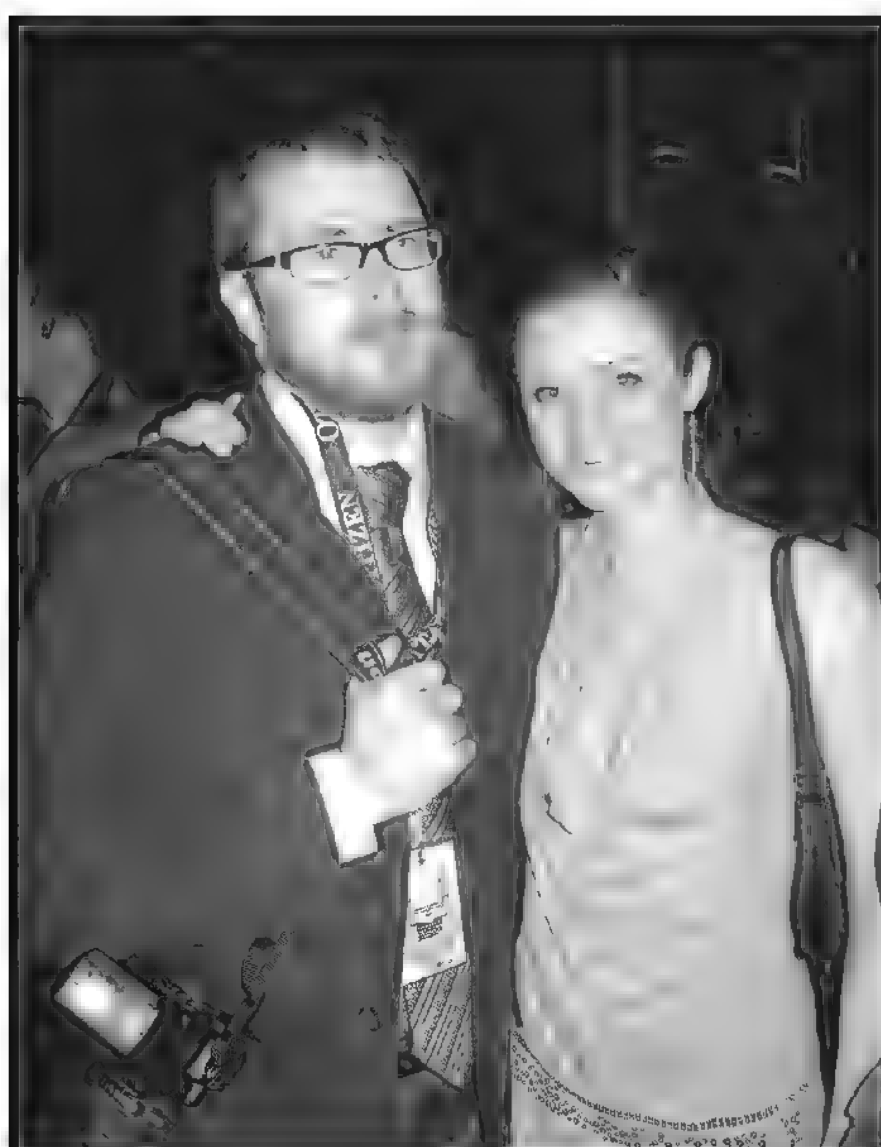
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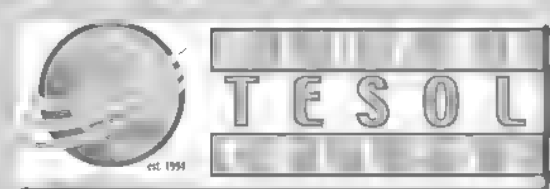
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Student loans taking their toll on Canadian PSE students

KSENIA PRINTS
CUP Central Bureau Chief

WINNIPEG (CUP)—Many students are forced to reduce their course loads to get involved with their university, to earn money to pay for their education, or for medical reasons. But when they do, Canada Student Loans Program (CSLP) is often the largest barrier they face.

Students who switch to part-time status or drop out altogether quickly lose their eligibility to be a part of the national loan program and immediately start accruing interest on their loans. Payments are then expected within six months.

When David Jacks was elected president of the University of Winnipeg Students' Association, he still had another year left in his degree. The Union's bylaws mandated that he drop most of his classes while he held the office.

As soon as that happened, Jacks lost his student loan and began accumulating interest on what he had previously borrowed.

"Students who want to get involved on campus, it's sacrificing a year of your academic life [...] and I certainly felt a financial penalty," Jacks said.

"I will lose one year of my studies, and if I want to continue my studies, then the money I've made through this position is going directly to the student loan."

CSLP has an interest relief line that allows students to stop making payments on their loan, but to be eligible, a student's family income is assessed and must fit the criteria established by CSLP.

Karen, whose last name is protected due to employment reasons, dropped out of school in 2006 after she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

She was denied interest relief based on her and her husband's projected income. She was making \$1400 per month through private insurance, which she said didn't even cover living expenses and medicine.

"Financially, we were in the shit. Those \$1400 were all I had to live on," Jacks, who took time off for a paid

position, was also ineligible.

"I can't start a new line of credit [with CSLP]," he said. "It is difficult to get the national and provincial bodies to recognize student activism and the student union."

But the scenario is no longer rare: ten to 40 people drop out of the University of Winnipeg every month, said Colin Russell, director of academic advising in the faculties of Arts and Science.

"A fair number of students will cite the money that they have isn't sustainable and they have to work more."

COLIN RUSSELL
DIRECTOR OF ACADEMIC ADVISING
UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG

Financial difficulty is one of the most common reasons for the move, he said.

"A fair number of students will cite the money that they have isn't sustainable and they have to work more," Russell said.

"Some students will make the decision to continue with courses and maintain funding, even if it's not to their benefit academically," he added.

"They might have a lower GPA that's not indicative of their ability [...] or if they had more money or time."

Applying for interest relief or an additional loan upon returning to school doesn't always work, either. Students are required to submit proof of enrolment in postsecondary studies, and to not have defaulted on any previous payments.

Many students have complained that paperwork gets lost or the process takes too long and students are forced to find other ways to pay for their tuition while their files are being processed.

Karen's medical forms were lost three times, she said.

After extensive complaints, the

federal government placed the entire CSLP under review during 2007 and, in the 2008 budget, earmarked \$123 million to Canada Student Loans Program reform.

Over half the funds, \$74 million, are dedicated to improving the program's responsiveness to borrowers' economic circumstances.

"There's not enough support when you phone student loans," Karen said. "It's not a service-oriented, humanistic culture."

"We've heard complaints from students about this scenario," said Julian Benedict, co-founder of the Coalition for Student Loan Fairness (CSLF).

The CSLF recently filed an Access to Information Request to CSLP to find out how many people are charged interest while still in school. They are currently awaiting results.

Many students are unaware of this complication until they go into collection, said Benedict.

While CSLP's original borrowing conditions state what happens if students change to part-time status, these documents are a confusing collection of rules and exceptions.

"The rules are more of a challenge than they need to be for students," Benedict said.

Hope is now high that the new government funding will be used to make CSLP more approachable and flexible. \$23 million has been earmarked for an online service overhaul.

Benedict also suggested creating a national student loan ombudsman, a neutral third party to assist people with specific concerns. At the very least, he said, problems should be assigned to an individual who can handle the case.

Benedict also believes that part-time loans should be interest-free, and the interest-free grace period reinstated.

Interest relief should also not be decided based on projected income, said Karen, but case by case.

Overall, Benedict doubts that \$123 million will fix the CSLP.

The final allocation will be brought to a vote in the House of Commons in the middle of March.

U of T takes vegetarianism cake

Despite Toronto's title, those choosing meatless diets are on the rise across the country, forcing many universities to offer a wider array of choices for students

SARAH MILLAR
CUP Ontario Bureau Chief

TORONTO (CUP)—The University of Toronto has stolen the title of the most vegetarian school away from McMaster University. But vegetarianism is more prevalent at Canadian colleges and universities than you may think.

According to Ryan Huling, college campaign co-ordinator for PETA2, Canadian schools tend to fare very well from coast to coast.

"The University of British Columbia is always a strong contender, as is the University of Victoria," he said.

"The contest gets tougher each and every year, since more and more universities are rapidly expanding their vegetarian and vegan options in response to student demand."

Huling noted that in a recent study commissioned by one of the campus food providers, Aramark, nearly 25 per cent of the students were looking

for vegan options when sitting down to eat.

"Vegetarianism is becoming more and more mainstream, and it shows no signs of slowing down."

If a student is concerned that their school isn't meeting their vegetarian need, Huling said that PETA2 is always available to help.

The organization can send students information to share with their campus food provider about vegetarian and vegan options.

"We have worked with hundreds of campuses to add hearty and healthy vegan meals, including black-bean burgers, vegan pizza, and veggie 'chicken' nuggets. These dishes are a hit on virtually every campus we work with, and many non-vegetarians rave about the delicious new choices," he said.

While we may be strong in looking for vegetarian and vegan options in Canada, Huling said it's hard to compare Canadian schools with

American schools. Schools in both countries are offering more and more vegetarian options, and what Huling calls "more humane cuisine."

"Northwestern University [in Chicago] won the top spot in the US by offering delicious and cruelty-free dishes, such as vegetarian BBQ 'riblets' and vegan pancakes. Canadian schools are certainly giving the US a run for their money, though."

And while he wouldn't say Canadians are necessarily better than Americans when it comes to vegetarianism, Huling did admit that on many issues Canada tends to be ahead of the curve.

"Canadians certainly tend to be ahead of the curve on many social issues, and animal rights is no different. Whether eating a veggie burger at Harvey's or enjoying a meal at one of Ontario's any all-vegetarian restaurants, there's never been a better time to be a vegetarian in Canada."

OPINION

opinion@gateway.ualberta.ca ♦ tuesday, 18 march, 2008

Centennial year forgets students

I VIVIDLY REMEMBER THE DEBACLE THAT WAS a classmate's ninth birthday in third grade. While elementary-school birthdays are typically fun affairs where pizza, cake, and copious amounts of sucrose-based beverages are consumed, this event was ruled over by my friend's matriarch of a mother: there was no shouting, no running around, and no playing with the birthday boy's presents for fear of breaking them. Needless to say, it was one of the most boring birthdays I've ever attended.

However, this may have been topped by the U of A, as the festivities for the its centennial get into full swing and the invitations for students all seem to have been lost in the mail.

Taking a quick look at the upcoming events along with the ones that have passed, it's fairly clear that the University has invited its closest friends: alumni, current faculty, and mainstream media. Even what seems like the most relevant to current students—homecoming next September—is geared primarily towards alumni.

Instead, students are left with the opportunity to purchase tickets to the Prime Ministers' Conversation Series or attend events that would have taken place regardless, but which have the word "centenary" thrown somewhere into their titles. At least at that ninth birthday, there was some sort of sugar-free orange drink to wash the sawdust-flavoured boredom out of my mouth.

The University is missing out by not trying harder to include those that are at the forefront of the University's next 100 years. The grad students that are integral to pushing groundbreaking research forward, the support staff that are the behind-the-scenes glue, and the 30 000 undergraduates that give this place a reason to exist are all being pushed to the backburner in order to wax poetic about a bygone era. Very few current students have an incentive to keep ties to an institution that has been financially draining on them and given back the bare minimum—a degree.

While it's important to know how we've gotten to where we are at the U of A, the centennial should be more about looking towards the future than putting time and resources into reminiscing about the past. In 2006, the U of A launched its "Dare to Deliver" campaign, which is aimed at laying out a "a bold and expressive vision for [the University's] future"—the centennial would have been a perfect time to build off it by putting resources into current and future students, but it has instead been neglected in favour of alumni relations.

What's worse, the loot bag the University is handing out to students this year is less fun than the dental floss, toothbrush, and dinosaur eraser that you get from your dentist: continued deferred maintenance, the ubiquitous yearly raise in tuition and residence fees, the attempt to remove Lister Hall floor coordinator and tower VP elections, and most recently the debacle surrounding credit card tuition payments. It's like getting those horrible wax lips or a pack of vanilla gum after you were forced to go to the party of the kid in class with no friends: it wasn't all that great, but you were hoping you might actually get something fun out of it.

Students are the lifeblood of the U of A, and it's disheartening that the University isn't doing a better job at including them in such an important milestone, especially considering students' tuition keeps the school running and is in that sense footing most of the bill for the centennial events.

So instead of watching my mailbox for an invitation for the U of A's birthday bash, I'm going to start watching for an acceptance letter from a grad school that respects its most important resources: its current, continuing, and future students.

RYAN HEISE
Deputy News Editor

Back to your potatoes

Patty's day is done
Now the Irish can resume
Being poor again

ADAM GAUMONT
Editor-in-Chief

LETTERS

SU was consulted, sort of

While we, as the Students' Union, felt that the consultation in this case was insufficient, I would be remiss if I didn't make an attempt to correct the statement regarding the level of consultation in your editorial "Students deserve some credit" (13 March).

It's not the case that there was no consultation whatsoever. The University has been consulting with us on this issue since last semester, but we felt, even as late as 1 March, that this was still an item of discussion with the University and that no definite decision would be made this quickly.

However, I should commend Mr Pierse for some keen observations elsewhere in his editorial: credit card payment relieves the cash-flow issues most students experience in paying tuition, and it allows the international students this institution so highly covets a reliable method of payment.

As your Students' Union, we're always pushing the University to be fiscally prudent, but never at the expense of accessibility. Eliminating credit card payment is just another thing making paying for your education at the U of A harder.

MICHAEL JANZ
Students' Union President

Credit cards = Air Miles

I'm a little concerned about the discontinuation of payment by credit cards and was wondering why the University would change a policy like this? Over the course of my degree, I paid roughly \$20 000 on tuition alone. I'm currently enrolled in the MD program and over the four years; I will be paying well over \$44 000 in tuition. Many students have credit cards in which they can accumulate points for travel, for grocery store gift certificates, and for car payments.

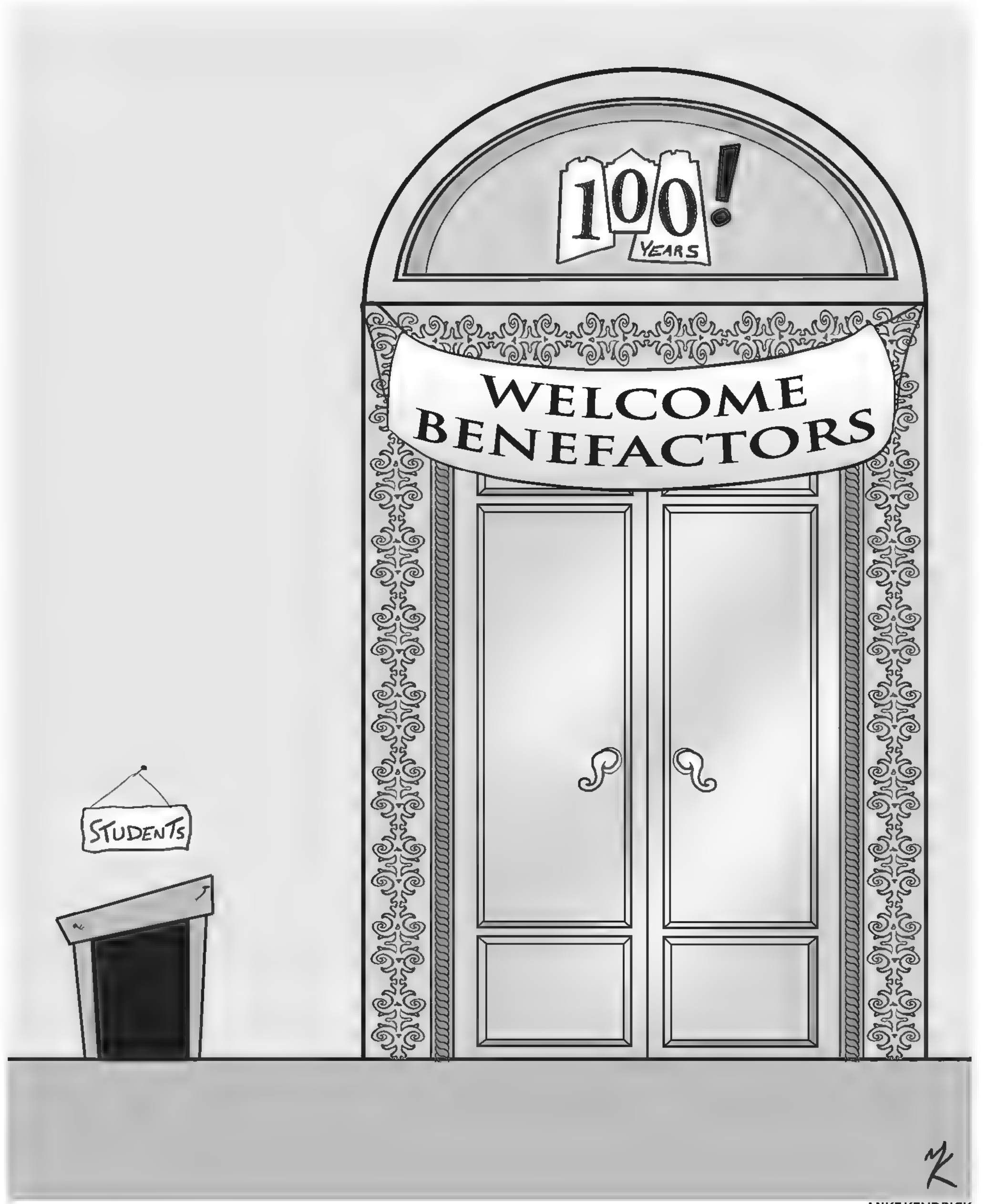
During the third and fourth year of Medicine, I'll likely be flying to other universities in order to do electives at these centres as well as during the Canadian Residency Matching Service (CaRMS) interview process. Over the eight years that I'll have been here, I should have accumulated at least 64 000 points from just tuition. This accumulation of points would have allowed me to make over four flights to other Canadian cities or one flight to Europe—something that will now be taken away from current and future students.

The fact that they will save \$1.3 million won't affect students on a personal level. However, losing this source of points will directly affect many, if not most, students at the University. I realize that the University wants to save money on the transaction fees; however in doing so, they are indirectly hurting students and masking it with a half-hearted attempt to increase student experience at the University.

CHRIS GERDUNG
Medicine I

U of A being inconsiderate

18 000 people, 50 per cent, any way you spin it, that's a lot of people that have a lot of power when it comes to this institute. That's also a lot more people that are going to have to line



MIKE KENDRICK

up to pay tuition once you can't use your credit card.

Sure there are other options to pay, but let's look at the reality of these methods. I'm sure many people out there don't actually own a cheque-book, like myself, as in the modern world of electronic banking it's not necessary. Option two being the debit card—I know damn well that mine won't let me spend that kind of cash in a day. There's also cash, but I personally don't want to walk around with whatever next year's ridiculous price is for tuition. The list goes on and on with options that students will have, but they all mean the same things: more work for students to give too much of our hard-earned money to get an education.

The University talks of saving \$1.3 million in transaction fees. But how much of that is going to be spent on increased locations and employees to accept and process our money? Or do they really think that students will line up at the admissions building for several hours to pay our tuition? And it has been repeatedly stated it's only one third of a percentage point of the operating budget. Considering your personal budget, that's about the same percentage of money saved as one night at the bar.

Once again, [the University] isn't consulting the leaders that we choose to represent us, and instead placing changes to the way that this institution is ran based on what they feel is right. If they won't deal with the elected leaders on their own, then it's time to make them listen. It's time to again send the message that students have a voice and won't simply accept what's forced upon them.

I'm proposing at least a demonstration of a solitary voice because a unified student body can send a hell of a message. I'm calling for our

Students' Union President and other SU members to organize a peaceful demonstration of our resilience to change without being consulted.

ALAN STOYLES
Arts II

Where's the protest?

I wonder how much money the administration would save if all the parents paying online were to show up in person and just pay cash—after 3pm, of course.

Students are way too passive with this stuff these days.

JEANNE PHENE
Professional Engineer

Glad to see male feminists

I wanted to commend Greg Queraynne, and the Gateway by extension, for the story on International Women's Day (re: "Women's rights improve nations," 11 March). As I don't volunteer for the Gateway, I have no idea how stories are assigned, or if Queraynne was forced to do this piece on women against his will [editor's note: we don't assign opinion pieces], but the fact remains that a complete lack of attention is given to women's issues, and seeing a male perspective was both enlightening and encouraging.

As a political science student with a focus on gender politics, I'm constantly being labelled in class for my so-called "feminist" leanings, or that I'm a "crazy feminist bitch" for speaking my mind.

Why does it seem necessary to label someone who talks out about gender issues, female inequality, etc a "feminist"? Queraynne's piece caught my attention because he

wasn't a "crazy feminist" writing about women's issues, but instead a masculine voice that had a chance to be heard by others before labels were put on his thoughts and dismissed—the same piece if written by a woman may not have received that same kind of openness.

The facts about gender disparity that Queraynne presented made me sick to my stomach and made me wonder all the more why more focus isn't put on this topic in postsecondary study. I'm tired of having academics shove in a few sentences near the end of a textbook that attempt to acknowledge gender discrepancies (which help make them appear to be more politically correct)—these facts alone should be enough to prove that this subject needs serious attention.

So thank you, Gateway, for shedding light on a topic that is sorely overlooked by academia, institutions, and the media. I only hope to see more pieces on such issues without the benefit of having an entire day devoted to women.

ALLISON RUDZITIS
Arts III

Letters to the editor should be sent to letters@gateway.ualberta.ca (no attachments, please).

The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libelous, or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study, and student identification number to be considered for publication.



this monkey is riding a dog. that's just crazy.

Know what else is crazy? Our lack of female opinion writers. Alright, fine, I'll take a goddamn shower. But now that I'm clean you should come out to our **4pm Thursday meetings in SUB 3-04.**

Gateway Opinion
Getting straight to the punch since 1910



Choosing body art shouldn't be a life or death decision.

Tattoos and body piercing can put you at risk for contracting hepatitis C or hepatitis B. Both are serious liver diseases that can be spread through improperly sterilized tattooing or piercing equipment or through contaminated inks.

To find out how you can protect yourself, talk to your doctor or public health nurse.

Funds raised by LISA support liver research, education & support programs in Northern Alberta.

LISA is the official UofA voluntary chapter of the Canadian Liver Foundation.
www.liverinfo.ca.

Online study groups no different from working together in library



SAM BROOKS

“The faculty should be applauding Avenir for recognizing the need for students to work collaboratively and providing a medium for them to do so, rather than hanging him out to dry. After all, in the careers we students are training for, we’ll be constantly working with our colleagues.”

It’s no secret that, as students, we often employ the help of friends to make it through some tough assignments. This is something most students do, but when they’re bouncing ideas off of friends, few give any thought as to whether or not this could be considered cheating. So how far do you have to go before you’re stretching the boundaries of academic integrity?

Apparently Chris Avenir, a student at Ryerson University, stretched them a little too far, and it whipped back at him like a snapped rubber band: he was failed in his class and recommended for expulsion. This was all due to his involvement in a Facebook group created with the intention of lending a helping hand when needed, which demonstrates how seriously misguided the current system that wants to hang Avenir is. We should be singing his praises for endorsing co-operative learning, not punishing him—because he didn’t do anything wrong.

I can’t claim to know all of the details in Avenir’s case, but it’s safe to say that you would have to screw up pretty badly to face the onslaught of charges that are being thrown at him. And what did he do to deserve this? Nothing other than having “group administrator” stamped

beside his name. If he was actually cheating, I could see how maybe one charge could be laid against him, but there were 146 members of that group, and hanging one person for not one or two but nearly 150 counts of alleged cheating is completely absurd.

Avenir’s collaboration with his peers is a far cry from dropping your pen during an exam to look up the answers written on a note tucked into your shoe, which is the sort of act that most of us would picture when we think of cheating. The faculty should be applauding Avenir for recognizing the need for students to work collaboratively and providing a medium for them to do so rather than hanging him out to dry. After all, in the careers we students are training for, we’ll be constantly working with our colleagues. Anyone who thinks that they have to work alone won’t be very successful.

When I first began working towards an engineering degree, I received two pieces of advice from friends and family who knew the trade: the first year is the hardest and you can’t do it alone. Up until recently, engineering students at the U of A had a similar Facebook study group that had well over 400 members, and it was a good support group

for getting through that difficult first year. After this story broke, our group was terminated. However, while this group was in use, the dealings online weren’t any different to what you’d find in a library.

If a member of the faculty were to see students working together at a table, they wouldn’t give it any further thought, so co-operating online shouldn’t be treated any differently. Sure, there were solutions posted to the questions, but they were used the same way that you’d glance at a solution guide to see if you’re on the right track. Anyone foolish enough to blindly copy from the site would be shooting themselves in the foot because they wouldn’t have any mastery of the concepts needed to pass the course. In fact, there are some professors right here at the U of A who set up their own online forums specifically for the benefit of their students—all that he did was take that same initiative upon himself.

Students everywhere should be cheering him on and hoping that he wins his fight because Avenir stands for every student that’s ever asked a buddy for help with his homework. As for me, I’m still looking for a library with a table that can fit 400.

In US, race overshadows gender issues



GARY ALLEN

Obama seems to have courted. Finally, I must note that while racism is indeed an important issue, it shouldn’t overshadow others, and it shouldn’t be a central reason for voting.

But if the US presidential race is the political equivalent of the Oscars, then Barack is my *Crash*. He’s a strong contender that deals with a pertinent issue, but ultimately doesn’t force his audience to really deal with any of their deep-rooted prejudices because, by-and-large, they think that they’ve already dealt with them.

No woman with Obama’s credentials would ever be considered for the nomination.

Hillary, on the other hand, is this year’s *Brokeback Mountain*: she’s expressive, strong, and contradicts our expectations. In choosing Hillary, Americans would be forced to examine the entrenched but rarely examined sexism that continues to pervade their society.

Robin Morgan recently wrote an article for the *Guardian* questioning how the American public would have responded to a heckler shouting “Shine my shoes” at Obama, and the answer is quite obvious: there would be public outrage and indignation that anyone could still hold such an opinion, let alone express it in public. However, someone did shout “Iron my shirt” at Clinton, and the reaction was much more subdued. Few in the American media treated it as more than a joke.

Many outside the US have been outraged at the treatment of Hillary Clinton by the American media, which seems to be completely enamoured with Obama. The media also spends a lot of time focused on Obama overcoming racism and uniting a nation that’s looking for change while undermining Clinton’s fight to become the first female president. Underlying it all is the fact that though many Americans would prefer a black man to any woman as president, there are few willing to admit it.

In a recent *New York Times* piece, another noted feminist, Gloria Steinem, questioned whether a woman with the same upbringing and credentials as Barack Obama, including only one term in the US Senate, would ever be considered for the nomination—and she’s totally right. No woman with Obama’s credentials would ever be considered for the nomination. The American public unfairly characterizes her struggle as less important or difficult than his.

You may ask how this political clash affects us in Canada, but there are three reasons why you should be passionate about the forthcoming nominations and elections south of the border. First of all, the American president is one of the most powerful positions in the Western world. Secondly, the Canadian economy is intrinsically linked to the fate of the US. Lastly, fighting for human rights should be a cause that we can all unite for, and fighting sexism is something that we have to examine in our own country as well as in that of our neighbours. Unfortunately, on this historic occasion, signs are pointing to another win for *Crash*—but hopefully, it’s all just media spin.

CRA Tax Clinic

Location: U of A Tory Atrium

Tax Clinic Limits * Per Family

<p>(1) Person - \$30,000</p> <p>(2) People - \$37,000</p> <p>(3) People - \$40,500</p> <p>(4) People - \$43,500</p> <p>(5) People - \$47,000</p>	<p>Also: we cannot complete returns for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deceased persons - Bankrupt individuals - Individuals with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - capital gains/losses - employment expenses, - business/rental income interest income over \$1000
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Tax Clinic Operating Hours

Week 1: (M - F) March 10 - 14 10 - 4pm

Week 2: (M - F) March 17 - 21 10 - 4pm

Week 3: (M - F) March 24 - 28 10 - 7pm

For more information, please visit:

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Are bars responsible for monitoring a patron’s sobriety?

Alcohol can be dangerous, and those serving it are accountable



TOM WAGNER

point

On 7 October, 2007, Tammy Kobylka was found dead at her home in Calmar from alcohol poisoning. The bar that served her is now being charged—as it should be—under the Alberta Gaming and Liquor Act for allowing an overly intoxicated individual to consume liquor in a licensed premise.

Of course, as with most government legislation, the charge is a complete understatement of how drunk you really have to be in order to drink yourself to death. Your body puts out serious and obvious warning signs after that amount of alcohol has been consumed, such as passing out and vomiting.

As a result, there’s simply no weight to the argument that it’s too hard for bar staff to know whether or not someone is too drunk to keep drinking safely. Even in a crowded club, the tell-tale signs of being that shitfaced are easy to spot.

Realistically, a number of factors complicate this process. After all, due to what are often extortionate prices, most people pre-drink before they get to the bar—and the number of drinks someone can safely consume varies wildly anywhere from three or four to over 20.

But this misses the point, which is that bars serve an admittedly dangerous substance that seriously affects your judgment and can kill you. As a result, it’s reasonable that they should be expected to take special care in serving it to patrons who are, generally, already drunk.

Admittedly, this is an exceptional responsibility. After all, the only people allowed into bars

are adults, who are deemed by society to be old enough to be responsible for themselves. But for anybody that’s ever been the designated driver or has dealt with drunks in the past, it’s worse than handling bratty children. We don’t let the drunk drive because they’re seriously irresponsible and have compromised judgment.

So while people do choose to drink, it can hardly be considered a responsible choice when they come even close to drinking themselves to death. People can hardly speak or move—let alone make good decisions—once they reach this point.

As a result, the bar needs to pick up the slack—a task that they’re well-suited for because they only serve drinks one or two at a time, rather than the full bottles and cases at a liquor store.

While people do choose to drink, it can hardly be considered a responsible choice when they come even close to drinking themselves to death.

I don’t think it’s too much to ask for the only supposedly sober people in the room—the bartenders—to cut off people who can no longer take care of themselves. This doesn’t even require huge changes to the business of a bar. They won’t need to give patrons a breathalyzer before they ask for a drink—they just need to ensure that they can speak well enough to order it. If you’re slurring so much that “rum and Coke” might as well be Rickard’s Red, it’s time you stop drinking.

The simple fact is that drunks are huge idiots that need to be baby-sat. As a result, it’s reasonable that we should continue to ask the very institutions that profit the most from irresponsible drinking to do their part to curb this dangerous behaviour.

You’re responsible for your safety; they don’t have to babysit you



CODY CIVIERO

counterpoint

The Kobylka incident is tragic, but ultimately, it’s an issue of personal responsibility. The potential dangers of alcohol are well known, and there’s an implied risk that goes along with its consumption. If establishments are permitted to obtain liquor licenses, we can’t completely fault them for alcohol-related mishaps.

Anyone who has had a few nights out at the bar can attest to the sneakiness of drunken customers in avoiding being cut off.

Bar staff are trained to detect their patrons’ levels of intoxication, and they expel people who are clearly very intoxicated. Generally, they do this to the best of their ability—after all, nobody enjoys drunken assholes throwing up on their floors—but customers are simply in a much better position to gauge their own levels of sobriety. Bars can’t have absolute control over the alcohol consumption of their customers—plus, there’s also no universal safe amount of alcohol, and different people respond to alcohol in different ways.

Even if we were to agree that bars should be held responsible for customer over-consumption, there are far too many variables at play to determine the bar’s responsibility for Kobylka’s death.

The fact that she was actually able to walk home demonstrates that, at the very least, it wasn’t as if they were funnelling beer into her mouth while she was passed out. She must have had some degree of consciousness when she had been in the bar. It’s difficult, if not impossible, to determine whether alcohol consumption continued after the patron left a bar, and it’s also hard to know whether the bar served the customer directly.

Anyone who has had a few nights out at the bar can attest to the sneakiness of drunken customers in avoiding being cut off. It’s not much of a stretch to think that someone may employ their less-drunk friends to retrieve the next round. If none of this persuades the government to drop the charges, then it’s a guilty-until-proven-innocent situation for the bar. Whether or not there was negligence on the part of the staff is difficult to discern, but what’s certain is that the person who drank was directly responsible for overdrinking.

If there were extenuating circumstances in which the bar held more responsibility for the death, then charges may have been warranted. In this case, however, the bar wasn’t sponsoring a drinking game or otherwise encouraging excessive drinking. They exchanged alcoholic drinks for money to someone whose apparent level of intoxication can only be speculated upon. There’s an implied health risk when purchasing alcohol, just as there is with cigarettes and fast food—but, then again, that never stops lawsuits.

If this kind of thing flies, you better get a pen ready to sign a waiver next time you go to the bar, and you can look forward to staring at big warning labels reminding you that you’re killing yourself with every pint.

Alcohol is great when consumed in moderation, but it’s inevitable that there will be the occasional person who takes it too far. Alcohol is an intoxicant, plain and simple, so we must be prepared for this unfortunate eventuality. Bankrupting bar owners won’t bring anyone back.

“There’s no money in poetry, but then there’s no poetry in money, either.”
—Robert Graves, 1895–1985

100!
YEARS
U of A 2008

Student Poetry Contest

(with apologies to Mr. Graves)

1st prize:
\$1,000 and publication
in the 2008 Convocation
Programs

2nd prize: \$500

3rd prize: \$250

In honour of the University’s centenary, the University of Alberta Alumni Association invites students in their graduating year to submit poems inspired by the University’s motto, and centenary theme,
“*Quaecumque vera — whatsoever things are true.*”

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
U of A
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Contest Deadline: Friday, April 11, 2008

For a complete list of rules visit
www.ualberta.ca/alumni/poetry
or call 492-7726

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Quick Academic Answers

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Cirque du Soleil teaches BFAs about hanging by a thread

Two techs from the world-class Canadian circus group hosted a three-day rigging workshop with the technical BFA students

PAUL BLINOV
Arts & Entertainment Editor

Cirque Du Soleil is world-renowned for its jaw-dropping spectacles and seemingly magical feats of acrobatics. But for every wizard-like effect in a Cirque show, there's a towering amount of technical set-up and behind-the-scenes rigging—something that the U of A's third- and fourth-year technical BFA students got a taste of over the weekend when two members of the Cirque's technical crew came in for a three-day workshop.

"We started this two years ago, when we discovered that [Cirque] were actually interested in coming out and having workshops with students," said Jon Price, who coordinated the workshop. "And of course, it's a great recruiting thing for them, and a good recruiting thing for us as well, [being] associated with the Cirque du Soleil. Just having them come out, spending this much time and having this much energy with the students, is just great."

The workshop, which balanced technical theory and hands-on application, was taught by a pair of veteran Cirque riggers. They provided each student with a sizeable package of technical information, and then, after going over the theory, guided them in planning out and setting up a trapeze.

According to one of the pair, Stefan Mayrand—who has been professionally rigging with Cirque and other groups since 1985 and who also taught the previous U of A workshop two years ago—having just a few days in which to instruct the students meant that the focus was in laying down the foundations for



SAM BROOKS

HANGING BY A MOMENT HERE WITH CIRQUE The third- and fourth-year technical BFA class spent part of the workshop setting up a Cirque-level trapeze.

future knowledge and application.

"There's no way I can make riggers out of them in three days," he explained. "My goal here is that they know where to look if they want to design something or rig something. If they're questioning a rig, they have enough data to figure out if it's wrong or strong enough. So I'm teaching them where to learn and how to learn rigging."

Sam MacLeod, a fourth-year BFA student who took part in the

workshop, noted the importance of learning from and building a connection with Cirque du Soleil.

"Half of us, eventually, would love to get a job work with Cirque," he said. "So it's a good opportunity to learn what they know—they're on the cutting edge of technology and procedures when it comes to rigging."

Outside of travel expenses, Cirque du Soleil didn't charge any money for the workshops. According to Price,

they can recruit a couple fresh faces afterwards.

"We play for their flights and their hotels, and they don't charge anything for the workshops," he said. "Again, it's sort of a win-win thing for both of us: they get some students out of it, hopefully, and we get the training."

Such outside expertise is what Price wants to continue to bring to the University's renowned technical BFA

program. Taking only six applicants per year, he's trying to create field-leaders capable of producing Cirque du Soleil levels of theatrics, and maybe a bit more.

"We think of [our graduates] as a high-end technicians," he explained. "They're trained in technical direction and production management [...] . They aren't going to be the stage hands; they're going to be the guys who run a crew of stage hands."

Half Life makes memories out of nothing

Though the plot and action are minimal, the play still offers a powerful exploration of Alzheimer's disease and the people most affected by it

theatrereview

Half Life

Runs until 30 March

Written by John Mighton

Directed by Daniel Brooks

Starring Carolyn Hetherington, Richard Clarkin, and Eric Peterson
Citadel Theatre

DAVID JOHNSTON
Arts & Entertainment Staff

Can you have a theatre production where nothing happens? Toronto's Necessary Angel Theatre Company thinks so, and is willing to test their theory with *Half Life*, the latest touring production at the Citadel.

The play has, most noticeably, minimal plot, and all but one scene takes place in the sequestered walls of a nursing home—the notable exception being a business trip where Donald (Richard Clarkin), a mathematician, interviews a computerized voice that may or may not be a human being. It's more intense than it sounds, but everything else in the production is a very self-contained, self-aware stylized dance through story, memory, and love. This isn't a show where things happen; this is a show where things have already happened, and the audience is invited to watch the

collision of the various fallouts in a slow, dramatic fashion.

Half Life tells the story of Clara (Dora-nominated Carolyn Hetherington) and Patrick (Eric Peterson of *Corner Gas* fame) who meet in the winters of their lives and fall in love. Or maybe they reunite; it's never quite clear, as Clara has Alzheimer's and can't recall if she met Patrick during World War II. Patrick is described as a pathological liar and could just be stringing her along.

Playwright John Mighton purposefully includes this ambiguity, toeing the line between possibility and memory in an attempt to force the audience to make up their own mind about the lovers' past. In the end, though, it doesn't matter, as the bond of love between Clara and Patrick transcends the limitations of time and space, playing out in dramatic fashion in the final scene.

Much of the production's subtlety falls in this category: the stylized nature of the rhythmic scene changes and message-heavy dialogue requires a large suspension of disbelief. There's one scene wherein Clara's son Donald interjects his conversation with "I don't think humans would survive if they could remember everything," and it's almost possible to hear the "clunk" when that line drops onstage.

A surprising amount of the play's

dialogue is this precocious, bringing to mind a world where large concepts of memory and romance are precisely phrased and framed in every conversation.

Equally surprising, though, is how this distinction is never as out-of-place as it could be; though noticeable, the stylized nature of the production lets the script get away with the overt thematic musings of the characters. Several powerful performances also help carry the themes, with Hetherington standing out, pulling on all the right heartstrings.

There's a few moments where *Half Life* picks up its careful pace, like the parallel budding romance between Donald and Patrick's daughter Anna (Laura De Carteret) or the ramblings of nursing home grouch Agnes (Barbara Gordon). But all these fall away by the time the story languidly inches its way to a conclusion, one that really concludes very little. Clara and Patrick have crafted a relationship that ultimately can't be contained by the story, only set off by it in a tear-jerking manner.

And so, they, like many of the plot lines, end with no end, just as they began with no beginning. Very little actually happens in *Half Life*, where the actors, the characters, and the audience are all content to sit back and watch the slow, beautiful decay.



This DVD shouldn't be unrated

More often than not, additional material exchanges tight plots for tighter asses



ELIZABETH
VAIL

A&E
Commentary

At first, an unrated DVD sounds like such an adventure—it conjures images of forbidden delights, kept from the original theatrical movie by the foolish studio heads who are really all doily-crocheting grandmothers, hunkered down in yellow-wallpapered panic rooms to protect themselves from the evil encroachments of smut, profanity, and the gays. The reality, however, is irritating in the extreme.

One of the reasons why the unrated DVD is such a useless development in the home-movie industry is that the majority of films that receive this unnecessary treatment are already nearly unrated. Films like Judd Apatow's *The 40-Year-Old Virgin* and *Knocked Up* have never made any pretense that they're denying their eager audiences the pleasures of a jovial stream of expletive-loaded dialogue or the titillation of graphic boob-shots.

So it's not like the unrated DVD is giving viewers anything that wasn't in the movie before. Katherine Heigl's notorious fake vagina was included

in the original theatrical version of *Knocked Up*, so audiences haven't really been deprived of anything. A studio executive has never woken up in a cold sweat from a nightmare about viewers bewailing the disappointment of a movie-going experience that contained 16 fewer naked breasts than they were expecting. Amid the rapturously positive reviews of *Knocked Up* and *The 40-Year-Old Virgin*, I must have missed the negative ones that regarded the lack of vaginas as an egregious cinematic weakness.

It shouldn't be that difficult to understand that we might actually want to purchase and keep the movie we originally saw—the movie that was the product of humour, heart, and careful editing.

The so-called benefits of the unrated DVD are just gratuitous. We don't get the movie we loved in theatres. With examples like Apatow's raunchy films, we get movies we originally loved that are now

overburdened with scenes that weren't cut due to objectionable content, but because they made the movie too long, weren't as funny as the material that did make it into the theatrical version, or cluttered the narrative pace. So the extras we're essentially paying for with unrated DVDs are the less audacious breast shots, the not-quite-as-funny jokes, and the less important scenes.

I don't mind the unrated releases by themselves—if you're a fan and love seeing the extra material, that's all well and good. It's the fact that sometimes, they only release unrated versions. Especially in the case of Apatow's movies, the egregious flaw comes from the fact that we don't even get the option to purchase the theatrical versions—you know, the original version of the movie we enjoyed in the first place and recommended to all our friends. It shouldn't be that difficult to understand that we might actually want to purchase and keep the movie we originally saw—the movie that was the product of humour, heart, and careful editing.

Really, it's like going to pick up your long-distance boyfriend at the airport, only to find out he's gained 200 pounds since you last saw him—he's still the same boyfriend at heart, I guess, only now there's a bunch of bonus material you could easily do without that makes your experience that much less enjoyable.



SEEING PINK Avril performed at the Rexall last week, reminding fans of her favourite colour while playing the hits.

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